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Capitol Comments

By Dan Daniels

Sometime before this Congress adjourns, it is a fairly good bet you will be hit with another tax.

When the dust settles, we will report to you on the contents of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax, but for now, I would like to explore the philosophy behind this bill and its effect on you, for there is not one soul in the Fifth District who will not be affected by it.

Now, common sense tells you that the laws passed in Washington should be helpful to the largest possible number of people; if they cannot be helpful, they should do a minimum amaount of harm. Additionally, they should be drafted so as to accomplish some well-defined goal. Finally, there should be an unmistakable logic to the legislation.

Does the bill recently passed by the House on a voice vote meet these tests? Judge for yourself.

To begin with, there is no agreement on the definition of a windfall profit, so the Committee just invented its own definition. In most people's books, profit is what is left after all expenses are paid. This particular tax is applied to revenues before any deduction for business expenses, and therefore more closely resembles a sales tax than anything else.

Does the legislation meet its own stated goals? Again, judge for yourself.

Goal one is to stimulate domestic production. Under the bill there could be an additional 350,000 to 700,000 barrels of crude oil produced each deay by 1985. Our current shortage is estimated to fall *within the range. But decontrol without* a tax could increase production by 1.5 million barrels in the same period. So for the same price at the pump - and this is very important to the consuming public - we will get less than half as much gas.

Goal two is to reduce red tape - and this bill creates several new categories, or "tiers", of oil. So that goal is out the window.

The third goal - to encourage conservation - could be accomplished with or without the tax, if you buy the reasoning that a higher pump price will encourage conservation.

The fourth goal, to make alternative sources of energy more attractive, will also be met, but there will be a difference. Under straightforward decontrol, with a plowback provision, more gasoline will be available in this country; under the windfall profits tax, there will be less. And while alternative sources have their place, no one has yet been successful in stuffing sunbeams into the gas tank.

In light of this, who then wins from a windfall profits tax? The United States Treasury, that's who. The tax will go into an "Energy Security Trust Fund", for which no purpose has been devised. It may or may not be rebated to the people; it may or may not be invested in alternative sources of energy; it may or may not be used to offset Social Security tax increases. Nobody knows what will happen to it.

And we do know that, over a period of five years, some $25 billion are expected to flow out of your pockets and into the U.S. Treasury, where they will be, accordeing to the bill, "invested" in government notes. It will essentially be taken out of circulation. If this bill were properly labeled, it would be a "Bill for the Relief of United States Treasury Deficit Managers", for they are the only ones who will benefit.

What we need is a better climate in which to increase production, instead of funneling money into the federal purse, to be squandered on wasteful and unproductive domestic programs, or to be sent overseas to unappreciative nations.

Little if any benefit will accure from this legislation and we should not raise your taxes by subterfuge, while telling you we are doing you a favor.

VA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - I am the widow of a Korean conflict veteran and have one dependent child. Our combined annual income is $1,916. Am I eligible for a widow's pension under the new improved law?

A - You may be entitled to a widow's pension since your income is below the $3,425 limit for a widow with one dependent child. Contact your nearest Veterans Administration regional office for information and assistance.

Q - Due to a financial emergency, I am thinking about surrending my National Service Life Insurance policy. I am hesitant to do this because I have had this policy since World War II. Is there an alternative available to me?

A - You may consider the option of applying for a maximum policy loan. You can receive 94 percent of the policy's cash value at five percent interest. This would permit you to repay the loan and keep your insurance in force.

Q - Does the Veterans Administration recognize "common law" marriage?

A - The VA will recognize "common law" marriage if the state in which the parties reside does so. Proof of the "common law" marriage must be established to VA satisfaction to qualify for benefits. Contact your nearest VA regional office for assistance.

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The Bible and Daily Living

By Dr. William L. Trimyer

SPEAKING THE TRUTH BOLDLY

Lesson for July 15, 1979
Background Scripture: I Kings 22
Focal Passages: I Kings 22:5-8, 13-19, 26-28

. . . And Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that is what I shall speak." (I Kings 22:14)

The Setting

Last week we looked at the kinds of evil that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel committed against their nation and its people. We noted how Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal in a duel on Mt. Carmen. This week we will look at how one prophet stood for truth under critical circumstances.

In time the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) formed an alliance against Syria. The two countries soon discovered that they actually needed one another in defense against outsiders, which is hardly the best reason for two countries or two people to come together. Nevertheless, Israel and Judah formalized their alliance with the marriage of Jehosphaphat's son to Ahab's daughter.

A crisis developed when Benhadad, King of Syria, refused to restore the town of Ramouth-gilead to Israel as promised. Jehosphat agreed to help King Ahab to recover the town of Ramoth-gilead. Jehoshaphat, however, would not go into battle without first consulting the word of the Lord.

The First Prophet

Ahab got together four hundred of his prophets to seek their opinion as to whether the battle plans should proceed. The four hundred prophets were basically Ahab's yes men. Although they were identified as prophets of the Lord, they always spoke in language that pleased the king. They told the [redacted] what he wanted to hear [redacted] payroll! Encouraging others to tell you what you want to hear rather than what you need to hear can be bad business. Ahab was playing Russian roulette with his position as King. We will see that the end result of his not wanting to hear the truth came with death on the battlefield.

The four hundred prophets formed a chorus which chanted that the Lord would give the king the battle. Fortunately, King Jehosphaphat was a little skeptical about four hundred opinions of the same stripe. So he asked whether there was one more prophet around who would speak the word of the Lord concerning the upcoming battle.

The prophet Micaiah was summoned to give his view. His initial reponse was to tell Ahab what he wanted to hear. Two explanations can be offered for Micaiah's conforming opinion with the other four hundred prophets. First, was he speaking out of fear for his own life? Or, was he simply ridiculing Ahab by suggesting in a facetious manner that his opinion wouldn't matter anyway? It must have been the latter because Ahab seemed to sense Micaiah's fecetiousness and became angry with him.

Ahab then asked Micaiah for his true opinion, and once he got it he became even more angrier. In his vision, Micaiah saw only bad news for Ahab. For speaking the truth, Micaiah was beaten by one of Ahab's hit men.

The Truth That Stands

Truth is hard to hear. Ahab responded to Micaiah's prophecy by having him placed in prison, thus closing his mind to the voice that represented the Lord. Ahab even predicted that he would return from the battle and visit Micaiah in prison to prove him wrong. But the test of a true and false prophet is in the pudding itself, namely, whether their words come true or not.

Ahab must have gone into battle feeling uneasy about the prophet's words, for he entered battle with a disguise. He easily deceived the enemy, at least from his point of view. The enemy believed that to kill the solider's leader would lead to a quick end to the war. In the heat of the battle a random arrow was shot at a random figure. The random figure was none other than King Ahab.

Speaking the truth against critical issues takes a lot of courage. But being able to hear the truth and follow it takes as much or more courage. To hear the truth about oneself and then do what is right is a road to better living.

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

Scientists Discuss Large Spacecraft

BLACKSBURG -- When almost 100 internationally-recognized scientists met at Virginia Tech to discuss large, flexible spacecraft, they meant "large." The idea of having a spacecraft two miles wide by ten miles long is not beyond their wildest imaginations.

If they are able to accompolish the construction of such a spacecraft, it may mean capturing all the energy needs of New York City's Manhattan Island.

The idea was conceived a number of years ago by Peter Glaser, an Arthur D. Little Co. researcher, and is only one of a number of concepts for energy generation and space exploration discussed at the dynamics and control of flexible spacecraft symposium, chaired by Leonard Meirovitch, Reynolds Metals Professor of Engineering at Tech.

Meirovitch explained the conference was oriented towards the development of mathematica techniques for analysis and control of spacecraft.

"These techniques are vital to the design of spacecraft, as well as to the implementation of controls guaranteeing satisfactory performance in their mission," he said.

This spacecraft would be "an array of solar emergy collectors," explained Mark J. Balas, a researcher for the Bolt, Berank and Newman Firm of Cambridge, Mass. and a conference attendee. The idea would be to place the vehicle in a geosynchronous orbit and beam the energy to a predetermined location on earth, he continued. As indicated by Meirovitch, a difference of one degree in its orientation would mean an error of about 400 miles in that location.

The spacecraft would be solar powered and resemble a thin piece of cardboard. It probably would not be available until after the turn of the century.

"On earth such a vehicle as this would collapse under the section of gravitional forces. This means all testing will have to be done in space," Balas added.

A critical issue will be the method of controlling this thin sheet of solar radiation collectors, the 37-year-old said, and during the conference various ideas were presented.

The banquet speaker, Robert C. Reid from the Lyndon B. Johnson NASA Space Center, compared the construction in space of this solar powered satelitte to completing the top floor of a structure first and working down until the entire building was complete. "It will be a tremendous investment," Reid said.

The space shutle, which NASA hopes to launch in the near future, might provide one means of keeping this satelitte in good working order, he indicated.

NASA has also briefly entertained the idea of establishing a Space Operations Center, designed specifically to develop some of the larger space vehicles being considered, Reid said.

"The community of active researchers interested in this field is less than 100 in the United States, yet we're leading the world," said Balas. Although he himself may never reap the benefits of this work, Balas is convinced it must continue now or else there will not be enough lead time to overcome the world's energy problem.

Jimmy Dorety Celebrates Birthday

Jimmy Dorety celebrated his birthday recently with a party at A. J. Skateworld. Attending were Lisa Martin, Patrick Lucado, Ben Martin, Chuck Wilkerson, Richie Page, "Jimmie" (seated), David Woods, Darrin Kidd, Matt Wilkerson, Stacey Roach, Brad Kidd, and Brandon Kidd.

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TOWN OF PAMPLIN

PROPOSED BUDGET
July 1, 1979 — June 30, 1980

Administration	$ 2,750.00
Garbage, Street, Cemetery Maintenance	5,746.00
Social Security	1,100.00
Federal Income Tax	600.00
State Tax	200.00
V.E.C. Liability Insurance	50.00
Truck Expense	1,150.00
Electricity	1,200.00
Virginia Municipal League	100.00
Utilities	350.00
Town Tags	75.00
Council-Mayor Compensation	555.00
Insurance	800.00
Postage	75.00
Advertising	75.00
Rent, Lock Box, Checks, Supplies	125.00
Repairs	75.00
Donation Fire Department	500.00
Miscellaneous	500.00
Revising Charter	500.00
Pamplin Community Center	500.00
Road Repair	2,000.00
TOTAL	$19,026.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 1, 1978 - June 30, 1979

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD JULY 1, 1978...$14,904.23

RECEIPTS

Sales Tax Refunds	2,713.66
Property Taxes from 1978	2,940.47
Property Taxes from 1979	2,951.74
Town Automobile Tags	1,422.00
Virginia Employment Commission	9,535.00
A.B.C. Profits	1,618.12
Corporation Tax	1,750.02
First National Bank Stock Tax	2,978.95
Pamplin Exxon-Garbage Pickup	132.00
Reimbursements:	
School Electricity	539.00
Community Center Electricity	108.00
Individual Lights	117.36
Miscellaneous	8.60
Merchant's License	503.58
Cemetery Lots	250.00
Rolling Stock	14.01
Gas Tax Refund	82.62
TOTAL RECEIPTS	$27,665.13
Mobile Home Tax-Returned	405.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,070.13
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING-Balance	42,974.36

DISBURSEMENTS

CETA Title VI		8,034.49
Town Salary-Part Time		3,030.44
Social Security		1,240.63
Federal Withholding Tax		677.40
State Tax		219.53
V.E.C. Libility Tax		13.63
Truck Expense		780.60
Electricity:	Town	1,127.08
	School	541.40
	Community Center	35.00
Virginia Municipal League		100.00
Utilities		276.91
Town Tags		61.83
Council-Mayor Compensation		554.80
Insurance		799.00
Postage		75.00
Advertising		54.39
Rent, Lock Box, Check, Supplies		37.71
Repairs		53.15
Donation Fire Department		500.00
Miscellaneous		388.16
New Truck-Partial Payment		2,470.00
Charter		55.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		$21,126.15
Mobile Home Tax Returned		405.00
TOTAL		21,531.15
Balance on Hand June 30, 1979		21,443.21
		42,974.21

T. C. Ligon, Treas.
Joyce O. Baldwin, Clerk

Black Cat Sale
Knit Tops $1.13 off
Ladies Dresses Reg. to $42 Now $13.00
Shorts, Tops, Blouses
Reg. to $21 Now $7.13
Table of Odds & Ends
Reg. to $20 Now $3.13 - $5.13
Fairfield: Slacks, Blouses & Skirts
Reg. $17 now $11.13 Reg. $18 Now $12.13
Reg. $15 Now $10.13
Jantzen Casual Slacks Reg. To $21 Now $9.13
Men's 2 Pocket Sport Shirt
Reg. $15 Now $10.13
Jantzen Golf Shirts Reg. $18 Now $7.13
Men's Ties Reg. to $7.50 Now $3.13
Men's Suits Reg. to $110 Now $53.00
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Even if you don't have money to burn, you can still enjoy your fireplace. By making it a more efficient source of heat with an attractive Virginian Fireplace Insert. The Virginian also gives you the added bonus of a convenient cooking surface!
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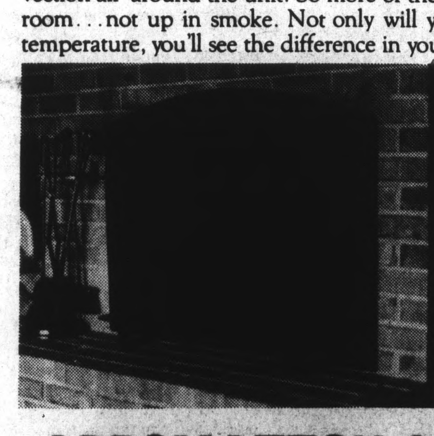

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